



## California's local health agencies and the state's climate adaptation strategy

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**Author(s):** Bedsworth L  
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### Abstract:

A changing climate will exacerbate many of the problems currently faced by California's public health institutions. The public health impacts of climate change include: an increase in extreme heat events and associated increases in heat-related morbidity and mortality, increases in the frequency and severity of air pollution episodes, shifts in the range and incidence of vector-borne diseases, increases in the severity of wildfire, increased risks of drought and flooding, and other extreme events. This article assesses the readiness of California's public health institutions to cope with the changes that will accompany a changing climate and how they relate to strategies laid out in the state's Climate Adaptation Strategy. County-level health offices are the front line actors to preserve public health in the face of numerous threats, including climate change. Survey results show that local health officers in California believe that climate change is a serious threat to public health, but feel that they lack the funding and resources to reduce this risk. Local health agencies also have a number of tools in place that will be helpful for preparing for a changing climate.

**Source:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10584-011-0245-z>

### Resource Description

#### Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Policymaker

#### Early Warning System: ☒

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

#### Exposure : ☒

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weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Temperature

**Extreme Weather Event:** Drought, Flooding, Wildfires

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat

**Geographic Feature:** 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

**Geographic Location:** 

resource focuses on specific location

United States

**Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):** 

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

**Health Impact:** 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Injury, Respiratory Effect

**Infectious Disease:** Vectorborne Disease

**Vectorborne Disease:** General Vectorborne

**Respiratory Effect:** Asthma

**Intervention:** 

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

**Medical Community Engagement:** 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** 

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populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status

### **Resource Type:**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

### **Resilience:**

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

### **Timescale:**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

### **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content